



Kozintsev's Shakespeare Films: Russian Political Protest in Hamlet and King Lear

By Tiffany Ann Conroy Moore

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This book is a study of Grigory Kozintsev's two cinematic Shakespeare adaptations, *Hamlet* (*Gamlet*, 1964), and *King Lear* (*Korol Lir*, 1970). The films are considered in relation to the historical, artistic and cultural contexts in which they appear, and in relation to the contributions of Dmitri Shostakovich, who wrote the films' scores; and Boris Pasternak, whose translations Kozintsev used. The films are analyzed respective to their place in the translation and performance history of *Hamlet* and *King Lear* from their first appearances in Tsarist Russian arts and letters. In particular, this study is concerned with the ways in which these plays have been used as a means to critique the government and the country's problems in an age in which official censorship was commonplace. Kozintsev's films (as well as his theatrical productions of *Hamlet* and *Lear*) continue along this trajectory of protest by providing a vehicle for him and his collaborators to address the oppression, violence and corruption of Soviet society. It was just this sort of covert political protest that finally effected the dissolution and fall of the USSR.

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About the Author

Tiffany Ann Conroy Moore teaches writing, literature, film and public speaking at several colleges in Southern New Hampshire.

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